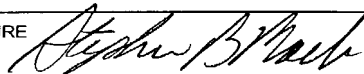



JC18 Rec'd PCT/PTO 10 DEC 2001

FORM PTO-1390 (Modified) (REV 5-93)		U.S. DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE		ATTORNEY'S DOCKET NUMBER	
TRANSMITTAL LETTER TO THE UNITED STATES DESIGNATED/ELECTED OFFICE (DO/EO/US) CONCERNING A FILING UNDER 35 U.S.C. 371				065691-0262	
				U.S. APPLICATION NO. (If known, see 37 CFR 1.51) Unassigned	
INTERNATIONAL APPLICATION NO. PCT/FR00/01574		INTERNATIONAL FILING DATE June 08, 2000		PRIORITY DATE CLAIMED June 10 1999	
TITLE OF INVENTION Promoter Which Allows Transgene Expression in the Entire Plant Except the Seed					
APPLICANT(S) FOR DO/EO/US Bertrand DUBREUCQ, Loïc LEPINIEC and Michel CABOCHE					
Applicant herewith submits to the United States Designated/Elected Office (DO/EO/US) the following items and other information:					
1.	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	This is a FIRST submission of items concerning a filing under 35 U.S.C. 371.			
2.	<input type="checkbox"/>	This is a SECOND or SUBSEQUENT submission of items concerning a filing under 35 U.S.C. 371.			
3.	<input type="checkbox"/>	This express request to begin national examination procedures (35 U.S.C. 371(f)) at any time rather than delay examination until the expiration of the applicable time limit set in 35 U.S.C. 371(b) and PCT Articles 22 and 39(1).			
4.	<input type="checkbox"/>	A proper Demand for International Preliminary Examination was made by the 19 <sup>th</sup> month from the earliest claimed priority date.			
5.	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	A copy of the International Application as filed (35 U.S.C. 371(c)(2)) <input type="checkbox"/> is transmitted herewith (required only if not transmitted by the International Bureau). <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> has been transmitted by the International Bureau. <input type="checkbox"/> is not required, as the application was filed in the United States Receiving Office (RO/US)			
6.	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	A translation of the International Application into English (35 U.S.C. 371(c)(2)).			
7.	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Amendments to the claims of the International Application under PCT Article 19 (35 U.S.C. 371(c)(3)) <input type="checkbox"/> are transmitted herewith (required only if not transmitted by the International Bureau). <input type="checkbox"/> have been transmitted by the International Bureau. <input type="checkbox"/> have not been made; however, the time limit for making such amendments has NOT expired. <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> have not been made and will not be made.			
8.	<input type="checkbox"/>	A translation of the amendments to the claims under PCT Article 19 (35 U.S.C. 371(c)(3)).			
9.	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	An oath or declaration of the inventor(s) (35 U.S.C. 371(c)(4)).			
10.	<input type="checkbox"/>	A translation of the annexes to the International Preliminary Examination Report under PCT Article 36 (35 U.S.C. 371(c)(5)).			
11.	<input type="checkbox"/>	Applicant claims small entity status under 37 CFR 1.27 .			
Items 12. to 17. below concern other document(s) or information included:					
12.	<input type="checkbox"/>	An Information Disclosure Statement under 37 CFR 1.97 and 1.98.			
13.	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	An assignment document for recording. A separate cover sheet in compliance with 37 CFR 3.28 and 3.31 is included.			
14.	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	A FIRST preliminary amendment. <input type="checkbox"/> A SECOND or SUBSEQUENT preliminary amendment.			
15.	<input type="checkbox"/>	A substitute specification.			
16.	<input type="checkbox"/>	A change of power of attorney and/or address letter.			
17.	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Other items or information: Copy of Verification of a Translation, Paper Copy of Sequence Listing, Application Data Sheet			

JC07 Rec'd PCT/PTO 10 DEC 2001

U.S. APPLICATION NO. (If known, see 37 CFR 1.49) Unassigned		INTERNATIONAL APPLICATION NO. PCT/FR00/01574		ATTORNEY'S DOCKET NUMBER 065691-0262	
18. <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> The following fees are submitted:				CALCULATIONS	
Basic National Fee (37 CFR 1.492(a)(1)-(5): Search Report has been prepared by the EPO or JPO.....\$890.00					
International preliminary examination fee paid to USPTO (37 CFR 1.482).....\$710.00					
No international preliminary examination fee paid to USPTO (37 CFR 1.482) but international search fee paid to USPTO (37 CFR 1.445(a)(2)).....\$740.00					
Neither international preliminary examination fee (37 CFR 1.482) nor international search fee (37 CFR 1.445(a)(2)) paid to USPTO.....\$1,040.00					
International preliminary examination fee paid to USPTO (37 CFR 1.482) and all claims satisfied provisions of PCT Article 33(2)-(4).....\$100.00					
ENTER APPROPRIATE BASIC FEE AMOUNT =				\$890.00	
Surcharge of \$130.00 for furnishing the oath or declaration later than 20 Months from the earliest claimed priority date (37 CFR 1.492(e))					
Claims	Number Filed		Included in Basic Fee	Extra Claims	Rate
Total Claims	24	-	20	= 4	\$18.00
Independent Claims	2	-	3	= 0	\$84.00
Multiple dependent claim(s) (if applicable)					\$280.00
TOTAL OF ABOVE CALCULATIONS =				\$962.00	
Reduction by 1/2 for filing by small entity, if applicable.				\$0.00	
SUBTOTAL =				\$962.00	
Processing fee of \$130.00 for furnishing English translation later the 20 months from the earliest claimed priority date (37 CFR 1.492(f)).				+	
TOTAL NATIONAL FEE =				\$962.00	
Fee for recording the enclosed assignment (37 CFR 1.21(h)). The assignment must be accompanied by an appropriate cover sheet (37 CFR 3.28, 3.31). \$40.00 per property +				\$40.00	
TOTAL FEES ENCLOSED =				\$1002.00	
				Amount to be: refunded \$	
				charged \$	
a. <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> A check in the amount of \$1002.00 to cover the above fees is enclosed.					
b. <input type="checkbox"/> Please charge my Deposit Account No. <u>19-0741</u> in the amount of \$0.00 to the above fees. A duplicate copy of this sheet is enclosed.					
c. <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> The Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge any additional fees which may be required, or credit any overpayment to Deposit Account No. <u>19-0741</u> . A duplicate copy of this sheet is enclosed.					
NOTE: Where an appropriate time limit under 37 CFR 1.494 or 1.495 has not been met, a petition to revive (37 CFR 1.137(a) or (b)) must be filed and granted to restore the application to pending status.					
SEND ALL CORRESPONDENCE TO:					
Foley & Lardner Customer Number: 22428			SIGNATURE 		
			NAME STEPHEN B. MAEBIUS		
22428			REGISTRATION NUMBER 35,264		
PATENT TRADEMARK OFFICE					

**Application Data Sheet**

**Application Information**

<b>Application number::</b>	Unassigned
<b>Filing Date::</b>	12/10/2001
<b>Application Type::</b>	Regular
<b>Subject Matter::</b>	Utility
<b>Suggested classification::</b>	
<b>Suggested Group Art Unit::</b>	
<b>CD-ROM or CD-R?::</b>	None
<b>Computer Readable Form (CRF)?::</b>	No
<b>Title::</b>	Promoter Which Allows Transgene Expression in the Entire Plant Except the Seed
<b>Attorney Docket Number::</b>	065691-0262
<b>Request for Early Publication?::</b>	No
<b>Request for Non-Publication?::</b>	No
<b>Suggested Drawing Figure::</b>	1
<b>Total Drawing Sheets::</b>	3
<b>Small Entity?::</b>	No
<b>Petition included?::</b>	No
<b>Licensed US Govt. Agency::</b>	
<b>Contract or Grant Numbers One::</b>	
<b>Secrecy Order in Parent Appl.?::</b>	No

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**Country of mailing address::** France

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Maurepas 78310  
**Country of mailing address::** France



***IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE***

Applicants: Bertrand Dubreucq et al.

Entitled: PROMOTER WHICH ALLOWS TRANSGENE EXPRESSION IN THE  
ENTIRE EXCEPT THE SEED

Serial No.: To be assigned

Date Filed: Concurrently

**PRELIMINARY AMENDMENT**

Commissioner for Patents  
Washington, D.C. 20231

Sir:

Prior to examination of the present application, Applicants respectfully request that the above-identified application be amended as follows:

**In the Claims:**

In accordance with 37 C.F.R. § 1.121(c) (3), please substitute for pending claims 6, 7, 12-15, 17, 18, 23, and 24 with the following clean version of the claims. The changes to these claims are shown explicitly in the attached "Marked Up Version of Claims."

6. (Amended) The use of a sequence as claimed in claim 1, for identifying fragments of the sequence SEQ ID No. 1 which allows the expression of a gene of interest in the tissues of a plant, except in the maturing seed and in the dry seed.

7. (Amended) An expression cassette, characterized in that it comprises a sequence of interest fused to a sequence comprising a promoter sequence as claimed in claim 1.

12. (Amended) A vector comprising an expression cassette as claimed in claim 7.

13. (Amended) A plant cell transformed with a cassette as claimed in claim 7 or a vector comprising an expression cassette comprising a sequence of interest fused to a sequence comprising a promoter sequence.

14. (Amended) A plant transformation kit comprising a cassette as claimed in claim 7 or a vector comprising an expression cassette comprising a sequence of interest fused to a sequence comprising a promoter sequence.

15. (Amended) A method for preparing transgenic plants in which a gene of interest is expressed in all the tissues except in the maturing seed and in the dry seed, characterized in that it comprises the following steps:

a) transferring a cassette as claimed in claim 7 or a vector comprising an expression cassette comprising a sequence of interest fused to a sequence comprising a promoter sequence into plant cells,

b) culturing the transformed cells obtained in step a) so as to obtain said transgenic plants.

17. (Amended) The method as claimed in claim 15, characterized in that the transfer is carried out using *Agrobacterium*, preferably *Agrobacterium tumefaciens*.

18. (Amended) A transgenic plant which can be obtained by carrying out the method as claimed in claim 15.

23. (Amended) The plant as claimed in claim 18, characterized in that it is chosen in particular from rapeseed, crucifers, maize, soybean, wheat, sunflower, pea, ornamental plants, and trees.

24. (Amended) A seed obtained from a transgenic plant as claimed in claim 18, characterized in that it does not contain the product of expression of the transgene.

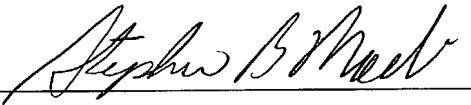
**REMARKS**

Applicant respectfully requests that the foregoing amendments be made prior to examination of the present application.

Respectfully submitted,

Date December 10, 2001

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E-mail: Smaebius@foleylaw.com

By 

Stephen B. Maebius  
Attorney for Applicant  
Registration No. 35,264



**MARKED UP VERSION OF AMENDED CLAIMS**

6. (Amended) The use of a sequence as claimed in [one of claims 1 to 3 and 5] claim 1, for identifying fragments of the sequence SEQ ID No. 1 which allows the expression of a gene of interest in the tissues of a plant, except in the maturing seed and in the dry seed.

7. (Amended) An expression cassette, characterized in that it comprises a sequence of interest fused to a sequence comprising a promoter sequence as claimed in [one of claims 1 to 3 and 5] claim 1.

12. (Amended) A vector comprising an expression cassette as claimed in [one of claims 7 to 10] claim 7.

13. (Amended) A plant cell transformed with a cassette as claimed in [one of claims 7 to 10] claim 7 or a vector [as claimed in claim 12] comprising an expression cassette comprising a sequence of interest fused to a sequence comprising a promoter sequence.

14. (Amended) A plant transformation kit comprising a cassette as claimed in [one of claims 7 to 10] claim 7 or a vector [as claimed in claim 12] comprising an expression cassette comprising a sequence of interest fused to a sequence comprising a promoter sequence.

15. (Amended) A method for preparing transgenic plants in which a gene of interest is expressed in all the tissues except in the maturing seed and in the dry seed, characterized in that it comprises the following steps:

a) transferring a cassette as claimed in [one of claims 7 to 10] claim 7 or a vector [as claimed in claim 12] comprising an expression cassette comprising a sequence of interest fused to a sequence comprising a promoter sequence into plant cells,

b) culturing the transformed cells obtained in step a) so as to obtain said transgenic plants.

17. (Amended) The method as claimed in [either of claims 15 and 16] claim 15, characterized in that the transfer is carried out using *Agrobacterium*, preferably *Agrobacterium.tumefaciens*.

18. (Amended) A transgenic plant which can be obtained by carrying out the method as claimed in [one of claims 15 to 17] claim 15.

23. (Amended) The plant as claimed in [one of claims 18 to 22] claim 18, characterized in that it is chosen in particular from rapeseed, crucifers, maize, soybean, wheat, sunflower, pea, ornamental plants, and trees.

24. (Amended) A seed obtained from a transgenic plant as claimed in [one of claims 18 to 23] claim 18, characterized in that it does not contain the product of expression of the transgene.

## SEQUENCE LISTING

<110> DUBREUCQ Bertrand  
LEPINIEC Loïc  
CABOCHE Michel

<120> PROMOTER ENABLING TRANSGENE EXPRESSION IN THE WHOLE  
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<130> D18253

<150> FR 99/07362

<151> 1999-06-10

<150> PCT/FR00/01574

<151> 2000-06-08

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                   20                  25                  30  
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230

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**PCT/FR00/01574**

The present invention relates to the isolation and characterization of a promoter which allows transgene expression in the adult plant, for the purposes of improving the development of the plant, without the product of this transgene being present in the mature and dry seed. The invention also relates to the transgenic plants comprising a gene of interest fused to said promoter sequence.

The characteristics of the seed will depend on the interactions between the maturation, under the control of a specific genetic program, and environmental conditions which condition, to a large degree, the subsequent production. However, the mechanisms which regulate these phenomena are, for the most part, still not understood. There exists, therefore, a real advantage in maintaining good seed batch quality. Now, the development of transgenic plants poses new problems, in particular related to the expression of

heterologous genes in the seeds of said plants. Specifically, the presence of proteins or of polypeptides in the seeds may have harmful consequences on their ability to germinate or on their quality. In addition, while the population is becoming increasingly used to the idea that edible plants may be genetically modified, edible seeds containing the product of transgenes may not be easily accepted.

10 Thus, the objective which is the basis of the present invention is to identify a promoter which would allow strong expression of a transgene in all the tissues of the plants except in the seed.

15 To this effect, promoter trapping, a powerful tool for  
dissecting developmental processes (Topping and  
Lindsey, 1995, for review), has been carried out. This  
strategy is based on the use of a vector for  
transforming plants, which has, at one of its ends, a  
20 reporter gene (most commonly GUS or GFP) without a  
promoter. If the insertion occurs in a coding region  
and if the sequence of the reporter gene is in frame,  
there will be translational fusion between the  
endogenous protein and the protein of the marker gene.  
25 Gene trapping strategies have a major advantage  
compared to conventional insertional mutagenesis since  
the phenotype (expression of the GUS reporter gene) is  
dominant. This dominance of the phenotype (GUS) makes  
it possible to follow mutated alleles in the  
30 heterozygous state. This is very advantageous for  
studying mutations which are lethal in the homozygous  
state. This approach also makes it possible to  
characterize a gene by its expression.

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It has been found, while accomplishing the present invention, that insertion of a reporter gene into the gene encoding a protein of the fatty acid hydroxylase (FAH) type of Arabidopsis leads to expression in all the tissues of the plant except in the seed. This type

of promoter is of great value for biotechnological applications. It makes it possible to express a protein of interest as soon as impregnation occurs in all the tissues of the plant, with a high level of expression, except in the seed. It is therefore possible, for example, to protect the plant against many biotic or abiotic stresses without modifying the content of its seed. It is also possible to express an antisense sequence directed against a target gene in all the tissues except in the seed.

### **Description**

Thus, the present invention relates to a promoter sequence which allows the expression of a gene of interest in the tissues of a plant except in the maturing seed and in the dry seed, said sequence comprising a sequence having at least 80% identity with the sequence, or a portion of the sequence, of the promoter of the Arabidopsis FAH gene.

Preferably, this sequence comprises a sequence having at least 80% identity with the sequence, or a portion of the sequence, SEQ ID No. 1.

The term "% identity" is intended to mean the percentage of identical nucleotides, which can be easily calculated by those skilled in the art using a sequence comparison computer program, such as the DNASIS program (Version 2.5 for Windows; Hitachi Software Engineering Co., Ltd, South San Francisco, CA), using the standard parameters described in the manufacturer's manual, incorporated into the description by way of reference.

In this context, the sequences and the percentage identities may also be obtained using internet computer sources. Mention may be made of the Blast program ([WWW.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov](http://WWW.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov)) and the FastDB program with the



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- 5 -

The invention also relates to the use of a portion of the sequence SEQ ID No. 1, for identifying fragments capable of promoting the expression of a gene of interest in a plant except in the seed. It is thus possible to define the minimum region of the sequence of the promoter of the FAH gene for ensuring effective expression. In this sense, the promoter may be modified by adding sequences such as enhancers, and/or by deleting nonessential and/or undesired regions. The promoter may comprise synthetic and/or natural sequences.

The invention relates to a method for isolating and characterizing the promoter of the FAH gene in plants, comprising the following steps:

- a) using a primer comprising a sequence having at least 80% identity with a sequence containing at least 10 consecutive nucleotides of the sequence SEQ ID No. 5 or a complementary sequence, or a primer which hybridizes under high stringency conditions to any coding sequence for SEQ ID No. 4 or a sequence having at least 80% identity with a sequence containing at least 10 consecutive nucleotides of the genomic sequence of the FAH gene of Arabidopsis, accessible under the number AC003096, or a complementary sequence, for isolating and/or amplifying the sequence upstream of the 5' end of the FAH gene,
- b) cloning and sequencing of the sequence obtained in step a).

SEQ ID No. 5 corresponds to the coding sequence of the FAH gene of Arabidopsis:

DEFINITION: complete cDNA of Arabidopsis thaliana fatty acid hydroxylase Fah1p (FAH1)

ACCESSION: AF021804

ORGANISM: Arabidopsis thaliana, Eukaryota;  
Viridiplantae; Streptophyta; Embryophyta; Tracheophyta;

- 6 -

Euphyllophytes;           Spermatophyta;           Magnoliophyta;  
Eudicotyledons; Rosidae; Brassicales; Brassicaceae.

Reference: Mitchell, A.G. and Martin, C.E, (1997).

- 5 Fahlp, a *saccharomyces cerevisiae* cytochrome b5 fusion  
protein, and its *arabidopsis thaliana* homolog that  
lacks the cytochrome b5 domain both function in the  
alpha-hydroxylation of sphingolipid-associated very  
long chain fatty acids; J. Biol. Chem. 272 (45), 28281-  
10 28288 MEDLINE 98019193

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661 gacatagtct ttgggacact tcccaccaca aaagcccca gaaaagagca atag

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15

It is also possible to use a primer comprising a  
sequence having at least 80% identity with a sequence  
having at least 10 consecutive nucleotides of the  
genomic sequence of the *Arabidopsis* FAH gene (introns  
and exons) which is accessible to those skilled in the  
art under the number AC003096, or a primer which  
hybridizes, under high stringency conditions, to any  
coding sequence for the following SEQ ID No. 4  
(*Arabidopsis thaliana*, fatty acid hydroxylase Fahlp):

25

MVAQGFTVDLKKPLVFQVGH LGEDYEEVWHQPIATKEGPRFFQSDFWEFLTL  
 TVWWAVPVIWLPV VVWCISRSVSMGCSLPEIVPIVVMGIFIWTFEYVLHRFVF  
 HIKTKSYWGNTAHYLIHGCHHKHPMDHLRLVFPPTATAILCFPFWNIKAISTP  
 STAPALFGGMLGYVMYDVTHYYLHHAQPTRPVTKNLKKYHLNHHFRIQDK  
 GFGITSSLWDIVFGTLPTTKAPRKEQ

Thus, the promoter sequence which allows expression of  
 5 a gene of interest in the tissues of a plant, except in  
 the maturing seed and in the dry seed, may also be  
 characterized in that it comprises a sequence which has  
 at least 80% identity with the sequence, or a portion  
 of the sequence, of the promoter of the FAH gene, and  
 10 which can be obtained using the method described above.

Another aspect of the invention relates to an  
 expression cassette which comprises a sequence of  
 interest fused to a sequence comprising a promoter  
 15 sequence as defined above. Said sequence of interest  
 may encode an RNA, a protein or a polypeptide which  
 protects the plant against a biotic or abiotic stress.

The cassette may allow the cosuppression of the  
 20 expression of a gene, characterized in that said  
 sequence of interest encodes a protein or polypeptide  
 capable of substituting the function of an endogenous  
 protein or polypeptide. The sequence of interest may  
 also encode an antisense sequence directed against a  
 25 target gene. This makes it possible, in coupling with  
 the ectopic overexpression of a gene of interest in the  
 seeds, or preventing expression of this gene in other  
 tissues, the antisense not being expressed in the  
 seeds. This proves to be most useful when the desire is  
 30 to overexpress a protein in the seeds without  
 disturbing the development of other tissues of the  
 plant.

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The cassette according to the invention may also comprise a selection marker gene, a leader sequence which controls the transit, the secretion or the targeting of the expression product, in various organelles, a transcription termination signal sequence and a translation termination signal sequence.

In the context of the invention, the term "gene of interest" or "transgene" is intended to mean a gene in particular selected from the genes encoding a protein or a polypeptide which protects the plant against a biotic or abiotic stress, the disturbing genes encoding a product capable of substituting for and/or inhibiting the function or the expression of an endogenous mRNA, protein or polypeptide. Mention may be made, for example, of the genes encoding ribozymes against endogenous mRNAs, and genes, the transcription product of which is at least in part complementary to an endogenous target mRNA (EP 240 208, incorporated into the description by way of reference). Mention may also be made of genes, the transcription product of which is identical or similar to the transcripts of endogenous genes, which are capable of inhibiting by cosuppression the expression of said endogenous genes (Napoli C. et al., 1990, The Plant Cell, 2, 279-289 mentioned in the description by way of reference). Of course, the gene according to the invention may encode an enzyme involved in metabolism, so as to produce or promote the biosynthesis of metabolites, in particular of metabolites which are useful for the human or animal diet or which may affect development. The promoter sequence according to the invention may induce the expression of a foreign gene and be used in various types of plant. The term "foreign gene" or "transgene" is also understood to define any coding or noncoding region of DNA (protein, polypeptide, antisense, catalytic RNA, viroid, etc.). A protein of interest for the development and production of the plant may be produced constitutively in all the organs of the plant

- 9 -

using this promoter, without the composition of the seed being effected. The proteins of interest are, without this being an exhaustive list, those which allow better protection of the plant against

- 5 - biotic stresses: protection against pathogens, bacteria, fungi, insects, nematodes, parasites or ravages, protection against intracellular pathogens and viruses, in particular those which are not transmitted by the seeds;
- 10 - abiotic stresses: protection against heat and cold, frost, water-related stresses such as drought or the opposite, anoxia, pollution (ozone, SO<sub>2</sub>), photoinhibition and light stresses, beating down, phytoremediation or nutritional stresses caused by a
- 15 deficiency or excess of a nutrient element (in particular a saline stress).

Any gene of interest may therefore be placed under the control of the isolated promoter sequence. For

20 expression in plants, this gene may also comprise 3' nontranscribed sequences containing polyadenylation signals which are active in plants. These sequences may, for example, be those encoding the 3' transcribed, untranslated portion of the cauliflower mosaic virus

25 35S RNA gene (CaMV 35S) or the 3' untranslated region of the gene encoding the nopaline synthase (NOS) of the *Agrobacterium tumefaciens* Ti plasmid.

The gene of interest according to the invention may

30 also be a gene which controls development, such as for example a gene involved in hormone metabolism, in signal transduction or in the control of the cell cycle.

35 Another aspect of the invention relates to a vector, in particular a plasmid vector, comprising an expression cassette as defined above.

A subject of the invention is also a plant cell transformed with the cassette or with a vector comprising said cassette, and a plant transformation kit comprising said cassette or said vector.

5

The plasmid preparation, the chimeric gene and expression cassette construction, the DNA restriction using endonuclease, the transformation and the confirmation of transformations are carried out according to standard protocols (Sambrook et al. 1989, Molecular Cloning Manual Cold Spring Harbor Laboratory, incorporated into the description by way of reference).

15 The construction of the vectors which can be used for  
the transformation experiments forms part of the known  
molecular biology techniques carried out routinely in  
this field of use.

20 An additional aspect of the invention relates to a method for preparing transgenic plants in which a gene of interest is expressed in all the tissues except in the maturing seed and in the dry seed, characterized in that it comprises the following steps:

- 25      a)    transferring a cassette or a vector according to  
         the invention into plant cells,  
         b)    culturing the transformed cells obtained in step  
         a) so as to obtain said transgenic plants.

The DNA may be transferred into the plant cells, in particular the cells of the albumen or the totipotent cells derived from immature embryos, using standard techniques (Plant Cell Report, 10, 595, 1992), in particular by transfer via Agrobacterium (Plant J., 1994, 6, 271), by electroporation (Nature, 1987, 327, 70) or laserporation (Barley Genetics, 1991, VI, 231), with polyethylene glycol, or using the "particle gun" biolistic method (Nature 1987, 327, 70). In general, for the vectors for transformation via an agrobacterium (infiltration in planta Bechtold et al. 1993), the





promoter of the FAH gene, such that the gene of interest is expressed only in the seeds.

The seeds obtained from a transgenic plant according to the invention, which therefore do not contain the product of expression of the transgene, are targeted by the present invention, as is their use in any industry.

For the remainder of the description, reference will be  
10 made to the legends of the figures presented below.

## Legends

15 **Figure 1: Intron/exon structure of the mRNA of the FAH**  
**gene**

The rectangles with stripes represent the introns. The scale is given on the figure.

T29F13 is a bac and TAI234 is a cDNA.

20 Figure 2: Structure of the [lacuna] region of the FAH  
gene

PFAH upper and A1 represent the primers used to sequence the promoter.

The rectangles with the stripes represent the 5' transcribed, untranslated portion.

The scale is given on the figure.

**Figure 3: Map of the pBI 101 plasmid**

30 Map of the pBI101 plasmid containing the pFAH promoter used.

### Example 1: Cloning of the promoter

## Materials and methods

35 Isolation of the promoter region of FAH

The method used for the extraction of Arabidopsis genomic DNA is based on that described by Doyle and Doyle (1990). The principle is based on the detergent

25

## 35

1  $\mu$ l (10 ng) DNA, 2  $\mu$ l 10 x buffer (BRL), 2  $\mu$ l 25 mM  $MgCl_2$ , 0.8  $\mu$ l 5 mM dNTP, 1  $\mu$ l primer 1 (10 pmol/ $\mu$ l),



## Results

The sequence of the gene in question was obtained by virtue of the sequences originating from the systematic sequencing of the *Arabidopsis thaliana* genome, and is located on BACT29F13. An expressed sequence (EST TAI234) was identified in the databases and appears to correspond to a full length sequence of the FAH mRNA. This allowed identification of the 5' transcribed untranslated sequence and of the anticipated positioning of the promoter sequence. The intron/exon structure was deduced, at the level of the

- 16 -

transcribed, untranslated portion, from the alignment of the BAC with EST TAI234 (figure 1).

The promoter was amplified by PCR using the primer pFAH/upper and the primer A1, placed in the 5' transcribed/untranslated portion (figure 2). A study of the sequence showed that the amplified sequence contains a putative TATA box at -100 bp from the presumed transcription initiation site (according to the full length cDNA) and a CCAAT box at -190 bp from this same transcription. The amplified PCR fragment (932 bp) was cloned into a pGEM-T vector (PROMEGA) sequenced, and then introduced into a binary vector (pBI101, Clontech) containing a GUS reporter gene without a promoter (figure 3). This construct was then introduced by transformation in planta, via *Agrobacterium*, into wild-type plants (ecotype Ws). Thirteen primary transformants were obtained, which were tested for their GUS activity during their development.

**Example 2: Expression of the reporter gene under control of the promoter of the FAH gene**

In the embryo, the expression is strong from 20 hours after the start of soaking. During development, the expression is strong in all the tissues, with a certain preference for the vascular tissues.

These results demonstrate that the isolated promoter sequence indeed confers a very specific expression profile on the reporter gene used (GUS). The promoter is active throughout the development of the plant, in all the tissues tested (leaves, flowers, stems, roots, etc.) except in the seed undergoing maturation (see Table I below).

Table I: Expression profile for the GUS reporter gene



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- Bechtold N. Ellis H. and Pelletier G. (1993). In planta  
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- Doyle J.J. and Doyle J.L. (1990). Isolation of plant  
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- 15 Sambrook J., Fritsch E. F., and Maniatis T. (1989);  
Cold Spring Harbor Laboratory, Cold Spring Harbor N.Y.

1. A promoter sequence which allows the expression of a gene of interest in the tissues of a plant, except in the maturing seed and in the dry seed, characterized in that it comprises a sequence having at least 80% identity with the sequence, or a portion of the sequence, of the promoter of the Arabidopsis FAH gene.
2. The sequence as claimed in claim 1, characterized in that it comprises a sequence having at least 80% identity with the sequence, or a portion of the sequence, SEQ ID No. 1.
3. The sequence as claimed in claim 2, characterized in that it comprises the sequence, or a portion of the sequence, SEQ ID No. 1.
4. A method for isolating and characterizing the promoter of the FAH gene in plants, comprising the following steps:
- a) using a primer comprising a sequence having at least 80% identity with a sequence containing at least 10 consecutive nucleotides of the sequence SEQ ID No. 5 or a complementary sequence, or a primer which hybridizes under high stringency conditions to any coding sequence for SEQ ID No. 4 or a sequence having at least 80% identity with a sequence containing at least 10 consecutive nucleotides of the genomic sequence of the FAH gene of Arabidopsis, accessible under the number AC003096, or a complementary sequence, for isolating and/or amplifying the sequence upstream of the 5' end of the FAH gene,
- b) cloning and sequencing of the sequence obtained in step a).



- 20 -

5. A promoter sequence which allows the expression of a gene of interest in the tissues of a plant, except in the maturing seed and in the dry seed, characterized in that it comprises a sequence which has at least 80% identity with the sequence, or a portion of the sequence, of the promoter of the FAH gene, and which can be obtained using the method as claimed in claim 4.
6. The use of a sequence as claimed in one of claims 1 to 3 and 5, for identifying fragments of the sequence SEQ ID No. 1 which allows the expression of a gene of interest in the tissues of a plant, except in the maturing seed and in the dry seed.
7. An expression cassette, characterized in that it comprises a sequence of interest fused to a sequence comprising a promoter sequence as claimed in one of claims 1 to 3 and 5.
8. The expression cassette as claimed in claim 7, characterized in that the sequence of interest encodes an RNA, a protein or a polypeptide which protects the plant against a biotic or abiotic stress, or which is involved in development, in particular in hormone metabolism, in signal transduction or in the control of the cell cycle.
9. The expression cassette as claimed in claim 7, which allows the cosuppression of a gene, characterized in that said sequence of interest encodes a protein or polypeptide capable of substituting for the function of an endogenous protein or polypeptide.
10. The expression cassette as claimed in claim 7, characterized in that said sequence of interest encodes an antisense sequence directed against a target gene.

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11. The expression cassette as claimed in claim 7, characterized in that said sequence of interest encodes an enzyme involved in the production of metabolites by a plant.
- 5 12. A vector comprising an expression cassette as claimed in one of claims 7 to 10.
- 10 13. A plant cell transformed with a cassette as claimed in one of claims 7 to 10 or a vector as claimed in claim 12.
- 15 14. A plant transformation kit comprising a cassette as claimed in one of claims 7 to 10 or a vector as claimed in claim 12.
- 20 15. A method for preparing transgenic plants in which a gene of interest is expressed in all the tissues except in the maturing seed and in the dry seed, characterized in that it comprises the following steps:
  - a) transferring a cassette as claimed in one of claims 7 to 10 or a vector as claimed in claim 12 into plant cells,
  - 25 b) culturing the transformed cells obtained in step a) so as to obtain said transgenic plants.
- 30 16. The method as claimed in claim 15, characterized in that the cells are chosen from embryonic cells originating from an immature embryo.
- 35 17. The method as claimed in either of claims 15 and 16, characterized in that the transfer is carried out using Agrobacterium, preferably Agrobacterium.tumefaciens.
18. A transgenic plant which can be obtained by carrying out the method as claimed in one of claims 15 to 17.

19. The plant as claimed in claim 18, characterized in that it expresses in its tissues, except in the mature and dry seeds, an RNA, an antisense sequence directed against a target gene.
20. The plant as claimed in claim 18, characterized in that it expresses in its tissues, except in the mature and dry seeds, an RNA, a protein or a polypeptide capable of substituting for the function of an endogenous protein or polypeptide.
21. The plant as claimed in claim 18, characterized in that it expresses a protein of interest under the control of a promoter other than the promoter of the FAH gene, and an antisense sequence capable of inhibiting the expression of said protein of interest under the control of the promoter of the FAH gene, such that the protein of interest is expressed only in the seeds.
22. The plant as claimed in claim 18, characterized in that it expresses in its tissues, except in the mature and dry seeds, a coding sequence for a protein involved in the biosynthesis of metabolites, for a protein or a polypeptide which protects the plant against a biotic or abiotic stress, or for a protein which controls development, in particular [lacuna] in hormone metabolism, in signal transduction or in the control of the cell cycle.
23. The plant as claimed in one of claims 18 to 22, characterized in that it is chosen in particular from rapeseed, crucifers, maize, soybean, wheat, sunflower, pea, ornamental plants, and trees.
24. A seed obtained from a transgenic plant as claimed in one of claims 18 to 23, characterized in that



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(54) Title: PROMOTER ENABLING TRANSGENE EXPRESSION IN THE WHOLE PLANT EXCEPT IN THE SEED

**WO 00/77223 A1** (54) Titre: PROMOTEUR PERMETTANT L'EXPRESSION DE TRANSGENES DANS TOUTE LA PLANTE HORMIS DANS  
LA GRAINE

(57) Abstract: The invention concerns the isolation and characterisation of a promoter enabling transgene expression in the adult plant, in view of improving the plant development or protecting it against biotic or abiotic stresses, without allowing the transgene product to be present in the mature and dry seed. The invention also concerns transgenic plants comprising a gene of interest fused to said promoter sequence.

(57) Abrégé: La présente invention concerne l'isolement et la caractérisation d'un promoteur qui permet l'expression de transgènes dans la plante adulte, à des fins d'amélioration du développement de la plante ou de sa protection contre des stress biotiques ou abiotiques, sans que le produit de ce transgène soit présent dans la graine mature et sèche. L'invention a également trait aux plantes transgéniques comportant un gène d'intérêt fusionné à ladite séquence promotrice.

Title: Promoter Which Allows Transgene  
Expression in the Entire Plant Except the  
Seed

Inventor(s): Bertrand DUBREUCQ et al.  
Atty. Dkt. No.: 065691-0262

10/009340

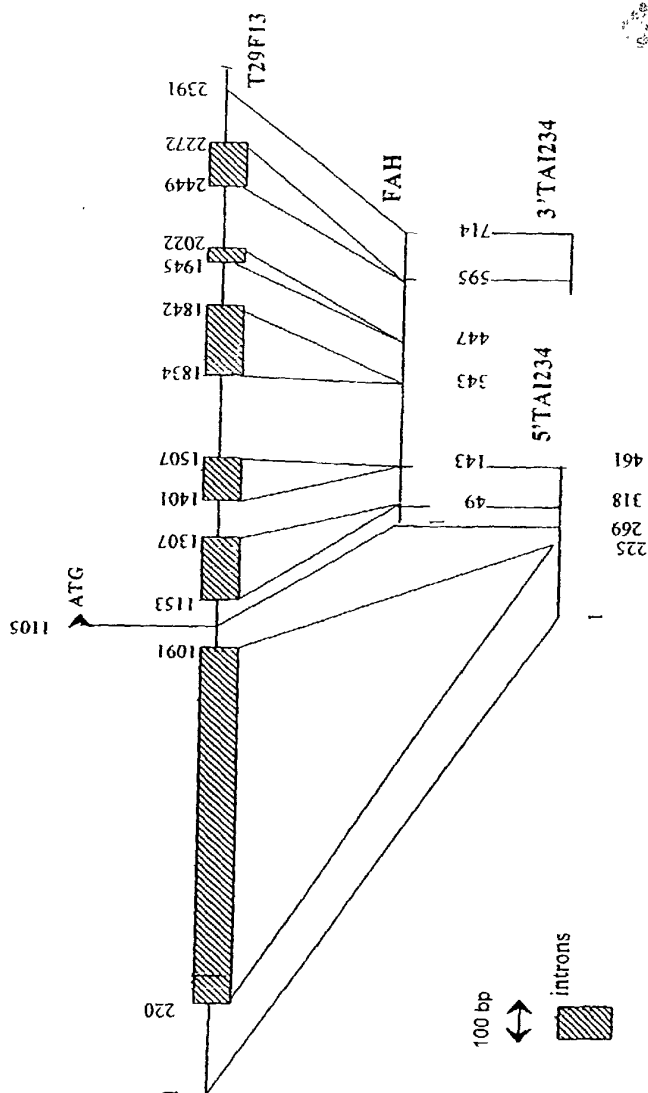


FIGURE 1

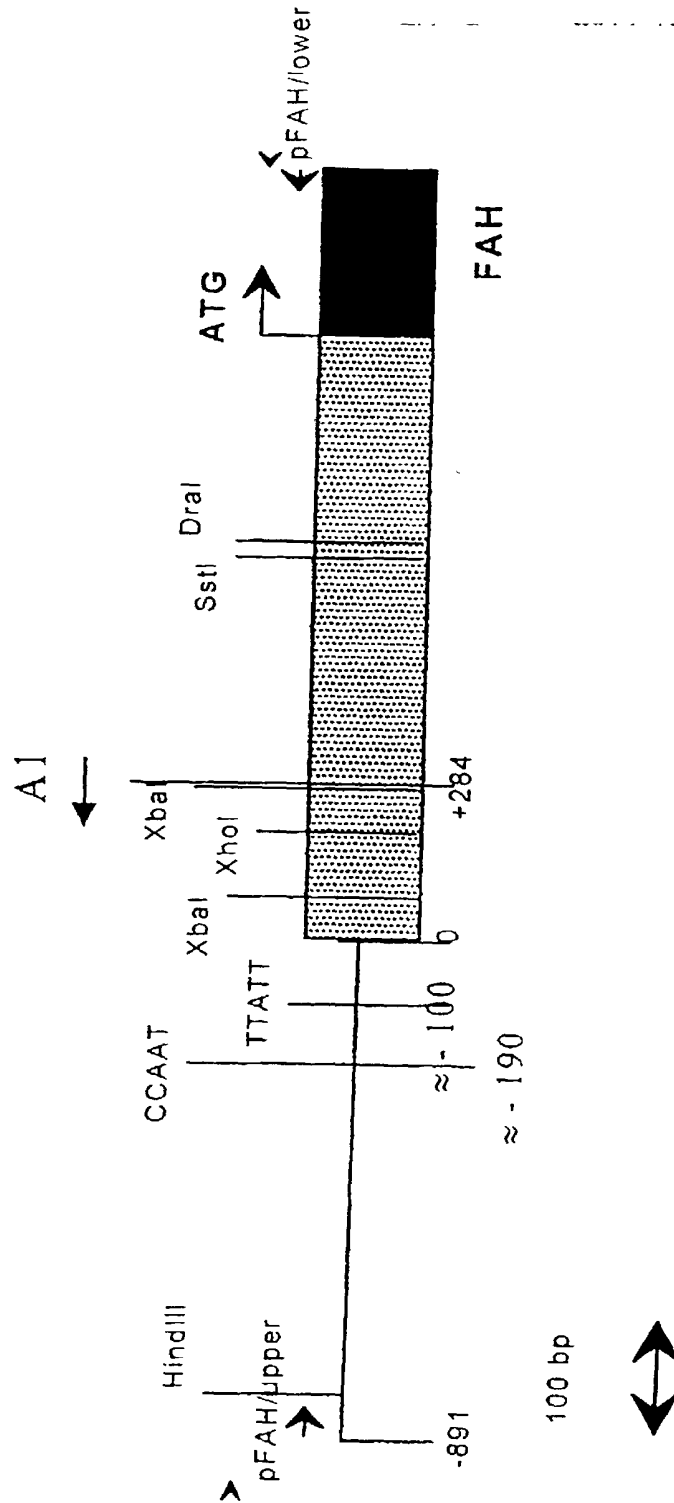


FIGURE 2

Title: Promoter Which Allows Transgene  
Expression in the Entire Plant Except the  
Seed  
Inventor(s): Bertrand DUBREUCQ et al.  
Atty. Dkt. No.: 065691-0262

10/009340

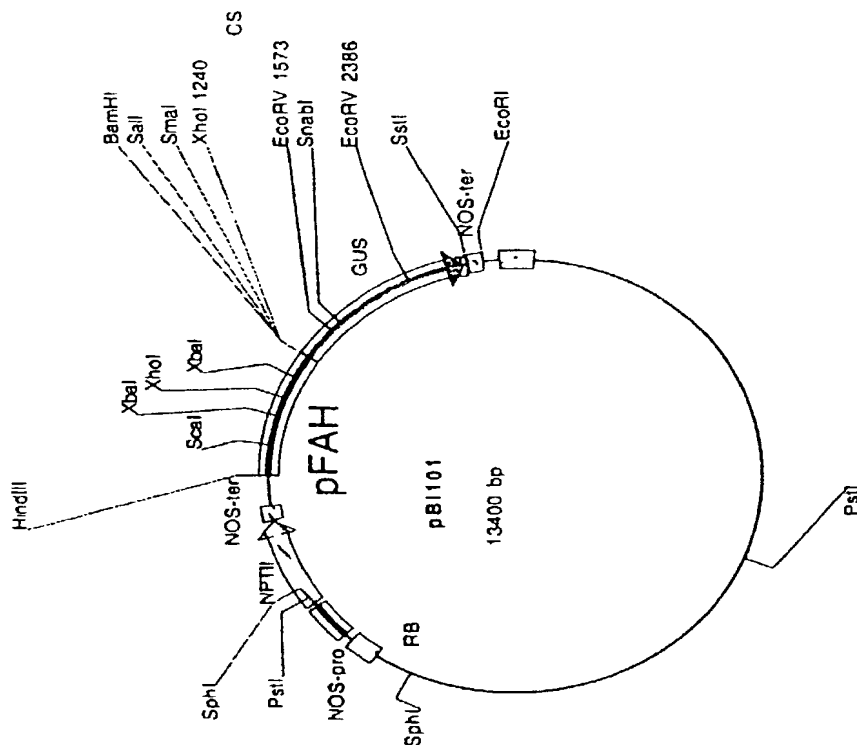


FIGURE 3



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As a below named inventor, I hereby declare that:

My residence, post office address and citizenship are as stated below next to my name.

I believe I am the original, first and sole inventor (if only one name is listed below) or an original, first and joint inventor (if plural names are listed below) of the subject matter which is claimed and for which a patent is sought on the invention entitled:

PROMOTER WHICH ALLOWS TRANSGENE EXPRESSION IN THE ENTIRE PLANT EXCEPT IN THE SEED  
the specification of which is attached hereto unless the following box is checked:

☐ was filed on JUNE 08, 2000 as United States Application Number or PCT International Application Number PCT/FR00/01574 and was amended on \_\_\_\_\_ (if applicable).

I hereby state that I have reviewed and understand the contents of the above-identified specification, including the claims, as amended by any amendment referred to above.

I acknowledge the duty to disclose information which is known by me to be material to patentability as defined in Title 37, Code of Federal Regulations § 1.56.

I hereby claim foreign priority benefits under Title 35, United States Code, § 119(a)-(d) or § 365(b) of any foreign application(s) for patent or inventor's certificate, or § 365(a) of any PCT International application which designated at least one country other than the United States, listed below and have also identified below any foreign application for patent or inventor's certificate, or PCT International application having a filing date before that of the application on which priority is claimed:

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NUMBER	COUNTRY	DAY/MONTH/YEAR FILED	PRIORITY CLAIMED
FR99 07362	FRANCE	JUNE 10, 1999	YES

I hereby claim the benefit under Title 35, United States Code § 119(e) of any United States provisional application(s) listed below.

APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE

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APPLICATION SERIAL NO.	FILING DATE	STATUS: PATENTED, PENDING, ABANDONED
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I hereby appoint as my attorneys, with full powers of substitution and revocation, to prosecute this application and transact all business in the Patent and Trademark Office connected therewith: Stephen A. Bent, Reg. No. 29,768; David A. Blumenthal, Reg. No. 26,257; William T. Ellis, Reg. No. 26,824; John J. Feldhaus, Reg. No. 28,822; Patricia D. Granados, Reg. No. 33,683; John P. Isacson, Reg. No. 33,715; Donald D. Jeffery, Reg. No. 19,980; Eugene M. Lee, Reg. No. 32,039; Richard Linn, Reg. No. 25,144; Peter G. Mack, Reg. No. 26,001; Brian J. McNamara, Reg. No. 32,789; Sybil Meloy, Reg. No. 22,749; George E. Quillin, Reg. No. 32,792; Colin G. Sandercock, Reg. No. 31,298; Bernhard D. Saxe, Reg. No. 28,665; Charles F. Schill, Reg. No. 27,590; Richard L. Schwaab, Reg. No. 25,479; Arthur Schwartz, Reg. No. 22,115; Harold C. Wegner, Reg. No. 25,258.

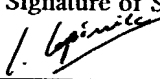
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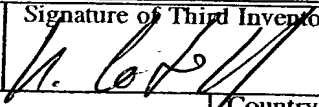
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Residence Address	Country of Citizenship	
Post Office Address		

Full Name of Fifth Inventor	Signature of Fifth Inventor	Date
Residence Address	Country of Citizenship	
Post Office Address		





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<212> DNA

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Phe Leu Thr Leu Thr Val Trp Trp Ala Val Pro Val Ile Trp Leu Pro  
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Val Val Val Trp Cys Ile Ser Arg Ser Val Ser Met Gly Cys Ser Leu  
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Pro Glu Ile Val Pro Ile Val Val Met Gly Ile Phe Ile Trp Thr Phe  
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Phe Glu Tyr Val Leu His Arg Phe Val Phe His Ile Lys Thr Lys Ser  
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Tyr Trp Gly Asn Thr Ala His Tyr Leu Ile His Gly Cys His His Lys  
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